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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 02481.1671-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Franz-Josef RUBRODER et al.

Application No.: 09/991,964

Filed: November 26, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR THE  
STABILIZATION OF PROTEINS  
IN COMPLEX MIXTURES  
DURING THEIR STORAGE IN  
AQUEOUS SOLVENTS

Group Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: Olga N. Chernyshev, Ph.D.

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Office Action dated December 20, 2002, please amend the application as shown below.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 23 and 48, and add new claims 78-83, as follows:

05/12/2003 NMOHAFH1 00000034 09991964

01 FC:1202  
02 FC:1201

126.00 OP  
84.00 OP

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23. (Amended) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein by preventing chemical modification of SH groups on the protein during storage, wherein the effective concentration does not decrease by more than about 7%.